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A Half Century with Rare Books

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Lawrence F. London

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NUMBER 21



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NORTH CAROLINIANA SOCIETY IMPRINTS

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- No. 21. *A Half Century with Rare Books* (1991)
by Lawrence F. London

A Half Century with Rare Books



Lawrence F. London

Lawrence F. London

*Together with Proceedings of a Banquet on the Occasion of the Presentation
of the North Caroliniana Society Award for 1991*

Chapel Hill
NORTH CAROLINIANA SOCIETY, INC.
AND NORTH CAROLINA COLLECTION
1991

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AN AFTERNOON AND EVENING WITH LAWRENCE F. LONDON

On the evening of Friday, 7 June 1991, in the Carolina Inn, Chapel Hill, friends and family joined in a reception and banquet honoring Lawrence Foushee London on the occasion of his acceptance of the North Caroliniana Society Award. The award recognized Dr. London's long career of public service as author, historian, and rare book librarian. The master of ceremonies was H. G. Jones, Curator of the North Carolina Collection and Secretary-Treasurer of the Society, and the award was presented by Vice-President William S. Powell in the absence (due to illness) of Archie K. Davis, President of the Society. Tributes were given by J. Carlyle Sitterson, Henry W. Lewis, George E. London, and, in absentia, James F. Govan. Their remarks, along with the response of the recipient, are published in this twenty-first number of the North Caroliniana Society Imprints series.

Earlier in the day, Dr. London was interviewed in a public program in Wilson Library by Roberta A. Engleman, Rare Book Cataloger. Ms. Engleman, a native of Asheville, received her undergraduate degree from the University of North Carolina at Greensboro, her master's degree from Duke University, and her graduate library degree from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. She became Dr. London's graduate assistant in 1972 and worked closely with him until his retirement in 1975. An edited transcription of the interview provides the first part of this publication.

Finally, this Imprint includes John L. Sanders's history and description of the North Caroliniana Society Award Cup, exhibited for the first time during the banquet.



The Interviewer and Interviewee—



—Roberta A. Engleman and Lawrence F. London

The Afternoon

A Half Century with Rare Books:

An Interview with Lawrence F. London

[Dr. London was interviewed by Roberta A. Engleman, Rare Book Cataloger, who worked with him from 1972 until his retirement in 1975.]

Q. Dr. London, in what year did you begin to work for the library?

A. In 1936; I started right after getting my PhD in American History, and my first position was assistant researcher.

Q. How big was the entire UNC library when you started working?

A. At that time we had about 250 to 260 thousand volumes.

Q. It's grown a lot. What kinds of special collections did the library have when you began working here?

A. In 1936 the only two special collections were the North Carolina Collection and the Southern Historical Collection, which is now part of our Manuscripts Department. The North Carolina Collection was started, as Dr. Jones would tell you, in 1844, and the Southern Historical Collection was started in 1929 by Dr. J. G. de Roulhac Hamilton.

Q. What kind of rare books did we have—even though we didn't have a Rare Book Collection?

A. We had a few rare books other than the Hanes collection of incunabula. These books didn't amount to more than about a half dozen five-foot shelves of really genuine rare material.

Q. What was the subject matter, other than the incunabula, of the things that we considered rare?

A. Mostly early Americana, and not too much of that.

Q. Let's talk about the Hanes Collection, starting with Aaron Burtis Hunter. Tell us who Aaron Burtis Hunter was and how he contributed to the incunabula collection.

A. Dr. A. B. Hunter was the president of St. Augustine's School in Raleigh for a number of years. After he retired, he moved to Italy, where he was rector of the American Episcopal Church in Florence and another church in Switzerland. During that eight or nine years in Europe he became interested in collecting rare books and manuscripts. When he returned to this country to live in 1929 he decided it was too valuable a collection for one man to keep in his home, so he offered it to the University Library, provided we could find the funds to buy it. Dr. L. R. Wilson, then the director of the library, immediately started working on that subject. He approached the Hanes family of Winston-Salem, who put up the money and also endowed the Hanes Foundation for the Study of the Origin and Development of the Book. The incunabula collection consists of books printed before 1501, beginning with the Gutenberg Bible in approximately 1456, through 1500. Any book published in that forty-five year period is considered rare. In Dr. Hunter's collection there were at that time around 400 titles, which was a very large collection, the largest in the whole South at that time. I think that we still have the largest incunabula collection of any library south of Washington.

Q. I'd like to say that that's largely because Dr. London built up the collection during his years here until it now numbers over 700 volumes. Could you say something more about the contributions of the Hanes family to the Rare Book Collection besides the incunabula collection?

A. This was just the beginning. After 1945 the Hanes family began to renew their interest in the Rare Book Collection. Mr. Rush, our librarian at that time, became interested in showing them the need of a good rare book collection and promising that some day the legislature would provide a proper housing, so they began to contribute more. Dr. Fred Hanes, who was an eminent physician at Duke University Medical School, gave us several very outstanding items. One was a Book of Hours, a fifteenth-century manuscript, beautifully illuminated. He gave us a number of other rare books and manuscripts. The Hanes family, in 1960, gave us our one millionth volume, a romance by John Gower, called *The Confessio Amantis*. It was published by Caxton, England's first printer, in 1483, and it is really a cornerstone of our collection. In 1974, the Hanes family gave us our two millionth volume, an interesting book published in Saint Albans, England, called *The Book of Hunting Hawking and Heraldry*,

by Dame Juliana Berners. This book was published in 1486 and was one of the earliest books with color printing.

Q. Can you tell us when the Rare Book Collection was set up as a separate department?

A. Yes. For so many years we had the Hanes collection of incunabula, the manuscripts purchased by Dr. Hunter, and a few other rarities in a locked section of the stacks. This library was built in 1929, under Dr. L. R. Wilson's administration. In 1949 it had far outgrown its bounds, and the legislature gave us money to expand the stacks and renovate this building. At that time the library was under the direction of Mr. Charles Rush, who was very interested in rare books. He was able to set up our Rare Book Collection in one very large, beautifully decorated and furnished room on the ground floor of this library. It wasn't too long before we outgrew that. Mr. Rush, as I said, was very interested in rare books and began to get alumni and people who he knew had rare materials to donate them to this library. Now I think from there we might go to Mr. William A. Whitaker.

Q. Yes. I'd like to talk about some of our important donors and certainly he is one of the very most important among them.

A. He is. He and the Hanes family. Mr. William A. Whitaker, who was a graduate of this school (class of 1904), was a chemist who taught at City College in New York and the University of Kansas. Following World War I he went into the tobacco business with a firm in New York and was overseas a great deal. When he returned to this country he thought he was going to have some leisure to travel, but the Depression hit about that time and, as he said, "I was kicked back into the business world." He began to collect rare books. He lived in New York City, having a seat in the Francis I. DuPont brokerage firm. In 1947 he gave us his first donation, which was a very important and valuable book. It was the second folio edition of William Shakespeare's complete plays, dated 1632, a beautiful copy. We never before had a Shakespeare folio. His folios are among the rarest items of English literature that one can collect. He later gave us the third and fourth folios. Another very important collection that he gave us was of Samuel Johnson and James Boswell and their period. Before he was finished collecting, he had given us first editions of almost everything they had written and published. From there he went to Charles Dickens. He gave us first editions of all of Charles Dickens's works, including those titles published in monthly numbers. Those were his two major collections. He also developed a less comprehensive but equally good William Makepeace Thackeray collection. When Mr. Whitaker died in 1960 he left the University

of North Carolina one million eight hundred thousand dollars, providing that one third of that income should go to the Rare Book Collection, one third to the Ackland Art Center and one third to student scholarships. This gave us our biggest single fund to draw on for the purchase of rare books.

Q. I'd like to ask you now about William Henry Hoyt, who was one of our most interesting donors, and how he became interested in his subject matter.

A. Mr. Hoyt lived in the northeast, but his family were natives of North Carolina. He became interested in the Marshal Ney legend, which claimed that Napoleon's former marshal was not executed by the Royalists in France when Napoleon fell, but escaped and came to this country to settle in North Carolina. He always felt that it was just an interesting myth and began to buy books in the field of French, English, and Scottish history to see if he could discover its origin. He wanted to learn if Ney really came to North Carolina. I think Hoyt proved his case, that it was a myth, but he died before he had the chance to publish the results of his research. One of the members of our history department, Dr. George V. Taylor, using Hoyt's research, published an article, "Scholarship and Legend, William Henry Hoyt's Research on the Ney Controversy" in the summer of 1960 issue of the *South Atlantic Quarterly*. Hoyt amassed a tremendous collection of French history, particularly for the Revolutionary Period, the Napoleonic Period, and some years beyond. Almost all the books he gave us in this field are beautifully bound. That also includes four folio volumes full of letters of correspondence and contemporary engravings. That collection has been an important addition to the Rare Book Collection.

Q. The next important donor that I would like to ask you about is Archibald Henderson, including his friendship with George Bernard Shaw.

A. Dr. Archibald Henderson was really a remarkable man. He was a professor of mathematics in the University, but he was always interested in drama. He began to be, in the early nineteen hundreds, very interested in Shaw and his work. In 1912 he published his first official biography of Shaw titled *George Bernard Shaw: His Life and Work*. In 1930, he published another biography, *Playboy and Prophet*, which was revised and enlarged in 1956. During that time he struck up a friendship with Shaw and had a lot of correspondence with him. In doing this work he collected first editions of Shaw's plays, and in the 1950s he donated them to the Rare Book Collection. We now have a first edition of everything Shaw wrote. Our collection of Shaw manuscripts is very small compared to some libraries. When I was the Curator of the Collection, Dan Laurence, a scholar from the University of Texas, who was compiling a bibliography of Shaw, came here to examine our collection. He said it was a larger collection

of *printed* materials by and about Shaw than any library he had ever investigated in England or this country. All of these collections we've mentioned—the Hoyt Collection, the Whitaker Collection, the Boswell/Johnson, Dickens, Thackeray and Shaw Collection—the library has added to over the years.

Q. I'd like to ask you about one of our most popular collections with readers, the mystery-detective collection. How did we get into the business of collecting mystery books?

A. A dealer in London, Mr. Harold Mortlake, from whom we'd bought many books over the years, built up a large collection of mystery-detective stories, all bound, hardback books entirely, and mostly first editions. He offered them to the library at a fair price. So that collection was purchased and became the basis of a growing collection. Jacques Barzun of Columbia University was here once to deliver a lecture and while here he asked me if he could see that mystery collection. He was always a great collector of mystery stories and liked to read them. So we turned him loose in the collection and he enjoyed it so much and seemed to think we'd done something special for him. When he returned home he wrote us that he had decided to turn over his large collection to us. Another friend of his who lived in New Jersey, Wendell Taylor, also was persuaded to contribute his collection. Thus we acquired a very large collection of mystery/detective books. None of them can circulate but have to be used in the Rare Book Collection.

That's something we have to impress upon everybody. None of our books can be taken from the area. They have to be used in this room, but we don't have anything our students can't use, from freshmen on up. And they have used them a great deal. Of course the largest use of the collection is by graduate students and faculty.

Q. Could you say something about how Mary Shore Cameron contributed to the development of the mystery/detective collection?

A. Mary Shore Cameron was the wife of a professor of mathematics here, Dr. Edward Cameron, and she had always been interested in Sherlock Holmes, or anything by Conan Doyle. Her interest resulted in a collection of first editions of all of Doyle's writings about Sherlock Holmes and Dr. Watson. After she died, about twenty years ago, Dr. Cameron gave her collection to the Rare Book Collection as a part of its great mystery/detective collection. We keep that Holmes collection as a unit in the Rare Book Reading Room.

Q. We have a collection of civil war novels similar to our mystery/detective collection. Could you tell us about the Wilmer collection and how that came to be here?

A. Dr. Richard H. Wilmer, who is an Episcopal priest, was in Chapel Hill for the wedding of a close friend in 1942. He visited the library and became interested in what we were doing here. This was before we had a real Rare Book Room or area. He told me about his having collected first editions of Civil War novels ever since he was a young man. His gift contained about 800 titles. We have added to that over the years, and one of our graduate students in the Dept. of History wrote his doctoral dissertation on the subject of Civil War novels, entitling it, appropriately, "Fiction Fights the Civil War." It's a collection that's been used a fair amount.

Q. What about the Burton Emmett Collection?

A. Mr. Burton Emmett was in the advertising business in New York, but also he was interested in fine printing, book collecting, and first editions of modern writers. He died in 1935. Several years later his widow decided to sell his collection. At that time William Carmichael was comptroller of the University. He raised the funds to purchase the collection. We came overnight into a splendid collection of first editions of people like Faulkner, Hemingway, F. Scott Fitzgerald, Sinclair Lewis, and Edith Wharton, novelists almost entirely American. And we have added to our holdings of those authors. Mr. Emmett's collection also contained a beautiful illuminated book of psalms written in the thirteenth century, and a famous illustrated incunabulum, the *Hypnerotomachia Poliphili*.

Q. What are some of the other collections that were popular with people over the years besides the ones that we've mentioned already? I'm thinking in particular about some of the things that grew out of the Hanes Foundation for the Study of the Origin and Development of the Book.

A. Over the years we have acquired such items as clay tablets, papyri rolls, and examples of fine private presses in England and America. Among those was the great Kelmscott Press and Doves Press of England, and in this country the Grubhorn Press of California and the Ashantilly Press of Darien, Georgia. These were all limited editions, printed on fine linen paper, and beautifully bound. Thus we can trace the history of the book all the way from clay tablets through incunabula right on down to fine printing of this day. One of the most notable books in our history of printing collection is a book by Dard Hunter, from Chillicothe, Ohio, who had a private press and a paper mill. He wrote this book himself, made the paper it was printed on, designed the type, and printed it on his own press and bound it; so in one book you've got every stage of the creation of a book all by one man.

Q. We've talked a good deal about the collections that people have used. I'd like to ask you about some of the individual titles that people have asked

for the most over the years.

A. Well, over the years I think our students have asked the most for Juan Ruiz's *Book of Good Love*, which they thought fascinating, and *Lady Chatterly's Lover*. But the interesting thing about it, as I said, is that I don't ever recall anybody but male students asking for those books. I don't recall any girls. I think they were a little more spiritual than the boys in their outlook.

Q. Didn't you say they used them so much that they had to be rebound?

A. Yes, they did—both of those books. Of course they never left the Rare Book Room, but they were used so frequently that we had to have both of them rebound.

Q. Many faculty members have contributed to the development of the Rare Book Collection over the years. Could you mention some of the notable ones?

A. Yes. In the Romance Language Department, Urban T. Holmes and Sturgis Leavitt contributed much, and they were always interested in the development of the Rare Book Collection. They used it a lot themselves. In the English Department were Richmond Bond, Robert Voitle, Mark Reed, and Weldon Thornton, and in the History Department, George Taylor and John Headley have given us their advice. Seeing interesting things turn up in catalogs, they would recommend them to us. They have been helpful in developing all the collections.

Q. Speaking of things that turned up in catalogs, who are some of the antiquarian dealers that you worked with most over the years?

A. In England I guess we dealt most with Bertram Rota and Harold Mortlake, whom I was speaking of a while ago, who both lived in London. They would come over often to visit us. They were not just merchants of books. They were all intelligent, knowledgeable bibliographers, and they knew all about the subjects they were dealing with and selling. In this country, I think two of our best were William Salloch of Ossening, New York, and John Cohn of the Seven Gables Bookshop in New York City. We bought many of our rare materials from these dealers, particularly from Mr. Cohn.

Q. I believe we still deal with Bertram Rota's son Anthony and with William Salloch. Perhaps this isn't a fair question considering all the wonderful things that you were able to add to the collection over the years, but I would like to ask what was the most elusive book that you ever tried to acquire.

A. In the Johnson-Boswell Collection, as I said, Mr. Whitaker gave us first editions of most of Johnson's writings, but there were a few that had eluded him. We were able to get a number of them before I retired, but the one we

were never able to secure was a poem Johnson wrote called “London.” It came up at book auctions, and we would bid on it, but we never bid quite enough. Finally in the past year the Rare Book Collection was able to buy it. Dr. McNamara found enough money to make the purchase. That completed our Johnson-Boswell collection of first editions.

Q. I’d like to ask now if anyone has any questions from the audience.

Q. You haven’t mentioned anything about the Southern Pamphlet Collection.

A. The Southern Pamphlet Collection—I’m glad you brought that up—is an interesting collection. In collecting manuscripts all over the South, Dr. Hamilton would just scrape up everything he could find in people’s attics and bring it here. In addition to fine letters, manuscripts, and documents, he acquired many pamphlets which are quite rare. People sometimes turn up their nose at pamphlets but oftentimes they contain some very interesting and rare material. One of the first jobs I had with the library was going through the collection of pamphlets that Hamilton acquired. They were all separated from the manuscripts—we didn’t put printed material with manuscripts—in another section of the library. We arranged them by states and alphabetically by author in each state. We finally have gotten funds to give it substantial cataloging, which is in process right now. Those pamphlets have been used a good deal by graduate students, particularly those in Southern history.

Q. You referred to having a couple of things rebound. Does that not lessen the value of the book after you have it rebound? And is it your policy to keep rebounding as necessary?

A. Any book that’s in its original binding is more valuable. But sometimes it’s practical and necessary when the binding is coming apart to have it rebound—restored, we’d call it. The binding of our one millionth volume, John Gower’s *Confessio Amantis*, was in fairly poor condition, but all the book was there, nothing was missing. After we acquired that volume, Ferdinand Zach, from Washington, who was a famous bibliographer and restorer of rare books, took that book and restored it—not rebound it, but restored it. In the process he found, as part of the binding, an indulgence of Pope Sixtus the Fourth, which was printed by William Caxton in 1481. That was removed, of course, and that gave us another incunabulum.

Q. Can you say anything about the Civil War imprints?

A. The Confederate imprints—yes. We began to collect them as one of the types of material that Dr. Hamilton brought in with the Southern pamphlets. The North Carolina Collection already had a large section of Confederate imprints that were printed in North Carolina. As you know, a Confederate imprint is

anything printed in the eleven Confederate states from 1861 to 1865. Over the years we've built up a very good collection, but the best collection of Confederate imprints in the world is at Duke University.

Q. Do you have a personal favorite area of collecting?

A. English literature—that's a broad subject—but in that field. First editions of people like the ones that Mr. Whitaker had already developed: Johnson and Boswell, Thackeray, Dickens. We also added to that a fine collection of nineteenth century fiction. The English Department was particularly interested in that and helped us acquire a great deal. Right after the war we got a large collection of nineteenth-century fiction that has proved to be very valuable as research material. But I have also been interested in acquiring and developing our modern first editions of American and English writers.

Q. Do you have any Walker Percy material in the Rare Book Room?

A. No.

Roberta: We have since Dr. London's time started collecting Walker Percy.

London: I retired in 1975, and afterwards he became so prominent and well known as a splendid writer; that's when the Rare Book Collection started collecting him.

Q. What was it like to work in the Rare Book Collection in the early days when it was just getting started as a department?

A. It was interesting, particularly because we were developing something new for this library. To see it grow and to work with the people in the various departments of the University who were interested in our collection was one of the most satisfying features of my work. Towards the end of my career it became very frustrating because we had the whole Rare Book Room filled. First we added some little stack space right next door, then later we had more stack space, with of course locked cages. It was the devil to administer in so many different areas. But since then all that's been changed, when we were able to get these fine quarters here. Now the Rare Book Collection can expand without any trouble.

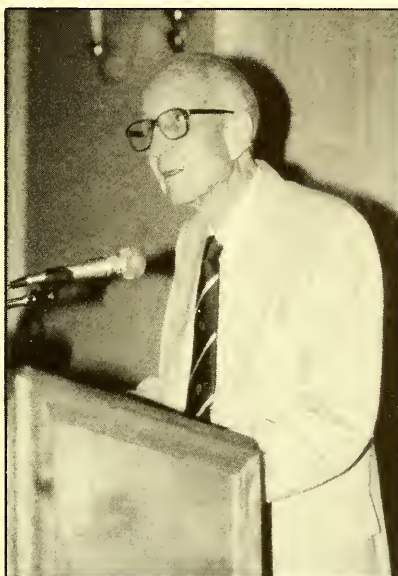
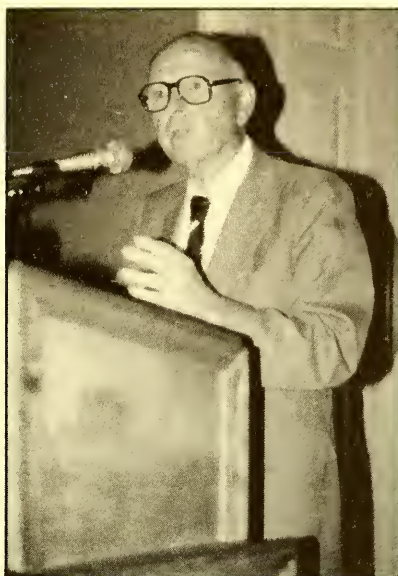
Q. Can Dr. London tell us about some of the most interesting scholarly research that has been done using this collection?

A. I would say that in the field of Shaw and Johnson and Boswell we have had several studies. Several library science students have made interesting studies on special subjects like Dickens and Shaw. In the Art Department, one of their students who was getting a master's degree in art did an interesting study on the famous Book of Hours that was given to us by Dr. Fred Hanes.

Interviewer's note: Questions from the audience concluded the interview. After Dr. London retired in 1975, Dr. Paul Koda became Curator of Rare Books. Several collections were added during his tenure, most notably the Estienne Collection. The Estiennes were a distinguished family of sixteenth and seventeenth-century scholar printers who worked in Paris and Geneva. The acquisition of this collection was made possible by Hanes family in 1981, and it served as the library's three millionth volume. Dr. Koda also planned for the removal of the Rare Book Collection from its small original quarters to its present location in the renovated Wilson Library.

Dr. Koda left the Rare Book Collection in 1984 and was succeeded in 1986 by Dr. Charles McNamara, who completed planning for and oversaw the move. One of the collection's most notable recent acquisitions has been a collection of imprints of the distinguished Boston firm, Ticknor and Fields. Ticknor and Fields was the publisher of a number of giants of nineteenth-century literature, including Longfellow, Dickens, Tennyson, Oliver Wendell Holmes, Emerson, Thoreau, and Whittier.

At the time of Dr. London's retirement, a fund was established in his honor. The London fund has made possible the acquisition of several distinguished volumes, including an incunabulum, the *Liber de Scriptoribus Ecclesiasticis* (in honor of his interest in church history), an important sixteenth-century work on cosmography by Petrus Apianus, a first edition of John Gay's *Beggars Opera*, an early edition of Samuel Johnson's *Prayers and Meditations*, and a first edition of John Greenleaf Whittier's first book, *Legends of New England*.



J. Carlyle Sitterson and Henry W. Lewis (top left and right) and George E. London (bottom left) delivered tributes before the presentation of the award to Dr. London by William S. Powell (bottom right).



Lawrence and Dewey London are greeted by Thelma Boyd (top) and Betsy and James A. Bryan (bottom). All photos by Jerry W. Cotten, North Carolina Collection.



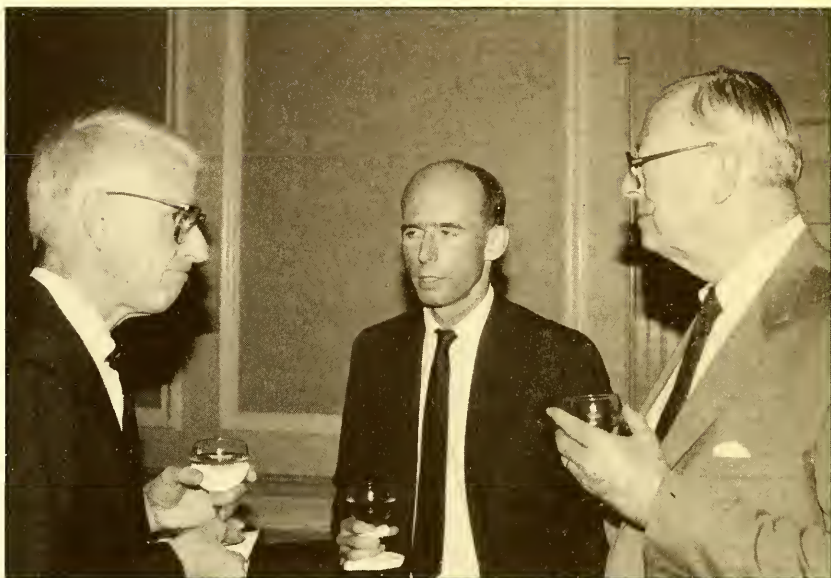
In top photo, Lawrence London chats with Jane and James Romer. At bottom he is congratulated by Mena F. Webb.



Sam Ragan, a previous winner of the North Carolininana Society Award, and his wife Marjorie talk with Anne Dewey Gregory. At bottom J. Isaac Copeland is greeted by Elizabeth and Penelope Wilson.



Among the crowd of nearly 300 at the award banquet were, top, R. Mayne Albright and Frank H. Kenan, and at bottom, Charles M. Shaffer and James L. Godfrey.



Philip Rees visits with Ned and William B. Irvine at top, and at bottom Mary Oliver (left) talks with Ann and John Sanders and (background) David Molike-Hansen.

The Evening

Opening Remarks and Introductions

H. G. Jones

Friends of Lawrence London: Normally we hold our North Caroliniana Society Award ceremony on a date with great meaning for the recipient. But February 12, Lawrence London's birthday, was too cold, and we can be sure that August 29, his wedding anniversary, will be too hot. So we chose a date that, insofar as we can ascertain, has had absolutely no meaning for him. Somehow, though, we think that Lonnie and Dewey will have reason to remember this June 7, 1991, when nearly 300 of their family and admirers turned out to thank him for a life of service to his native state. Lonnie and Dewey, this is your night.

Before dinner, may I take care of the obligatory introductions. Will those at the head table please rise and remain standing as their names are called, and will the audience withhold applause until you can't restrain yourselves. To my immediate right, the vice-president of the North Caroliniana Society, William Powell; from my far left, John Sanders, Nancy Sitterson, Henry Lewis, Virginia Powell; from my far right, Ann Sanders, Carlyle Sitterson—and now, will you join in welcoming Dewey and Lawrence London.

The audience is filled with distinguished relatives and friends of the Londons, but may we especially welcome Dewey and Lonnie's immediate family: Their sons Lawrence, Jr., and Alexander and his wife Kathy and children Susan and Frank; and Lawrence's brother Fred and his wife Jean.

Rumor has it there may be another London or two here, so will anyone by the name of London, or who is kin to a London, please stand. What a promiscuous—I mean prolific—family!

Now for dinner. The menu will assure you that this is no roast, and we

hope that the London *broil* will be tender, both figuratively and literally. We shall be back after dessert.

[Dinner followed.]

If you have not read or heard in the media about this evening's festivities, please understand that the North Caroliniana Society is an organization of substance rather than show; and we seek service, not publicity. We have but one mission: The promotion of North Carolina's cultural heritage, and we reverently and quietly recognize some of those who have contributed mightily to that mission. Beginning in 1978, Paul Green, Albert Coates, Sam Ervin, Sam Ragan, Gertrude Carraway, John Fries Blair, William and Ida Friday, William Powell, Mary and Jim Semans, David Stick, William Cochrane, Emma Neal Morrison, and Burke Davis have been recognized in the presence of their family and friends. Several of them are with us tonight, and I'd like to have them stand and be recognized: Sam Ragan, Bill Friday, Bill Powell, Bill Cochrane, and Albert Coates's beloved Gladys.

And now tonight Lawrence F. London becomes the fourteenth recipient of our North Caroliniana Society Award for outstanding contributions to the history, literature, and culture of our state. But first two explanations.

With a crowd this large, we chose not to slow admission by having each of you sign a guest book at the door. In addition, we have learned from fourteen years of these banquets that a single guest book never gets around to all the tables, for too many want to look back over the names before passing it along. But since we know Lonnie and Dewey will cherish a record of everyone here tonight, we are trying an innovation by giving each table its own single sheet which, when added to the others in a looseleaf guest book, will provide them with that record. Please sign the sheet and leave it in the middle of your table—do not pass it to another table—and our staff will collect it at the end of the program. Because of the chance of spilling a bit of dessert on the sheets, we chose an unusual cover so that the colors will blend in.

In the fall, the entire proceedings of this evening, plus the interview with Lonnie conducted by Roberta Engleman this afternoon in Wilson Library, will be published as No. 21 in our limited edition *North Caroliniana Society Imprints* series. A copy will be sent to the mailing list compiled for this banquet.

Lawrence, many friends called or wrote to express their regrets for being unable to greet you tonight, but where would we have put them if they had come? In addition, some have made contributions to the special collections in your honor, and these will be appropriately acknowledged. And here are a couple of letters that came to you at the Society's office. Incidentally, the flowers at the head table are from Mary Coker Joslin, and Dewey is to take them home

with you.

And now for the coronation.

The dilemma of so many wanting to pay tribute to Lawrence London tonight was solved in a manner characteristic of the North Caroliniana Society. We simply chose persons who know him best—who have been very close to Lonnie in his work, his church, and his community.

Dr. J. Carlyle Sitterson has been associated with Lawrence London and the University of North Carolina for more than sixty years. They were classmates here as undergraduates, and they were graduate students together in the Department of History. Dr. Sitterson then served as teacher, dean, and chancellor while Lawrence carried on his remarkable work in the University Library. A classmate, neighbor, and friend, Carlyle Sitterson.

[Chancellor Sitterson's remarks are printed later.]

As Dr. Sitterson has explained, the University Librarian, Dr. James F. Govan, regretted very much that a speaking engagement in Japan deprived him of the opportunity to speak to you in person tonight. We are glad, however, to have the following statement from him.

[Dr. Govan's statement is printed later.]

Henry W. Lewis has been associated with Lawrence London and the University for more than a half century. For many years they lived only a couple of houses apart. An attorney and author of historical works, Henry Lewis served as professor of public law and government and as assistant director and then director of the Institute of Government. The Squire of Northampton, Professor Henry Lewis.

[Professor Lewis's remarks are printed later.]

Someone told us that Lawrence London had another friend, and on that assumption we added an unnamed participant. Strangely, though, the mystery participant has not identified him/herself. Is there someone in the audience prepared to say a good word about our recipient?

Oh, it's that irrepressible cousin, George London. Lonnie, I'm afraid your family secrets are out of the bag. The former president of the Friends of the Library, Cousin George.

[Mr. London's remarks are printed later.]

Thank you, George, Henry, Carlyle, and in absentia, Dr. Govan.

Tonight we have a surprise for our members and guests alike. For thirteen years, the physical evidence of the North Caroliniana Society Award was a certificate. This year our Board of Directors voted for a more tangible symbol to represent the award, and John L. Sanders was delegated the task of choosing that symbol. For the unveiling of the new North Caroliniana Society Award,

here, prior to its formal presentation by President Davis, is John Sanders, the announcement of whose retirement in 1992 as Director of the Institute of Government has been received with deep regret by all of us who love the University.

[Mr. Sanders's remarks are printed later.]

This otherwise happy occasion is dampened by the answer to the question, "Where's Archie?" It was our President, Archie Davis, who first proposed that his old schoolmate and friend, Lawrence London, be accorded the North Caroliniana Society Award. For an additional reason he had looked forward to making the presentation. You see, Archie has undergone surgery twice in recent months for the replacement of a hip, and this was to be his first public appearance since the successful operation. Just two days ago, he dislocated the hip again, and I know that all of you join me in expressing to him our deep sorrow over his absence, and we wish him a rapid and full recovery.

Fortunately, our Vice-President, William S. Powell, has also been a friend of Lawrence London ever since Bill entered the University more than a half century ago. They were fellow department heads in the Library for many years. How appropriate, then, for the presentation of the fourteenth North Caroliniana Society Award to be made by "Mr. North Carolina History," himself the holder of the eighth award. Bill Powell.

[Professor Powell read the presentation remarks prepared by President Davis, which are printed later.]





Tributes to Lawrence F. London

J. Carlyle Sitterson

I have known Lonnie London for more than sixty years, first when we were undergraduates at Carolina, then as we both were taking graduate work in history, thereafter as a colleague on the faculty, and as a godparent to my oldest son. Throughout these years I have benefited from his wise counsel and enjoyed his and Dewey's warm friendship.

While speaking of counsel, I might add that day in and day out late in the afternoon Lonnie and I have a telephone conversation about the stock market. As we consider one stock or another, Lonnie invariably brings the discussion to one question: "What does it pay?" I assume you all know that the discussions are mostly theoretical since neither one of us has much money to make them meaningful.

On June 30, 1975, when Lawrence Foushee London retired as Curator of the Rare Book Collection of Wilson Library at the University of North Carolina, he ended a long and close association with the University that had begun almost fifty years earlier. He was born and grew up in Pittsboro and received his early education in the local schools and the Virginia Episcopal School. He received his A. B. degree Phi Beta Kappa from the University in 1931. Lonnie and Emily Dewey Mitchell of Chapel Hill were married in 1936, and they have two sons—Lawrence, Jr., and Alexander—and two grandchildren—Susan and Frank.

Lonnie began his association with the University of North Carolina Library in 1936 as a research librarian, and he developed a deep interest in rare books, becoming Curator of Rare Books in 1952. Under his direction the Collection had an impressive growth from about 13,000 volumes to more than 45,000.

The collection consists of books printed in Europe before 1700 and in America before 1820. In addition the Collection contains many limited editions (printings of three hundred or less) and first editions of noted writers.

The Rare Book Collection had its inception as a result of the generosity of the Hanes family of Winston-Salem, who have continued to give it valued support over the years. Interestingly, the Library's one millionth volume—John Gower's *Confessio Amantis* (1483), acquired in 1960—and the two millionth volume—*The Book of Hawking, Hunting, and Heraldry* (1486), acquired in 1974—were both gifts of the Hanes family. In the 1960s, the late William A. Whitaker, a native North Carolinian and a New York stockbroker, left not only his own rare books to the University but also an endowment to enable the Rare Book Collection to acquire additional titles. Whitaker funds have played an indispensable role in the recent substantial growth of the collection.

Lonnie London is known to his friends as a person of intelligence, warmth, diversity of interests, and sensitivity to the needs of others. In addition to his interests in his family and friends, and his dedication to building a great rare book collection, Dr. London's deepest interests have been American history, his church, and music. Throughout his professional career he has been an active, publishing scholar, and his titles include *Bishop Joseph Blount Cheshire* (1941); *Confederate Literature and Its Publishers* (1957); a number of articles on George Edmund Badger, distinguished North Carolina senator and Secretary of the Navy during the antebellum period; and several articles on various aspects of the history of the Episcopal Church in North Carolina.

Lonnie was historiographer of the Episcopal Diocese of North Carolina for more than fifty years and has been an active mover in the restoration of historic church buildings in the diocese. At the Chapel of the Cross, he has served in many roles, including several terms as vestryman and as senior warden.

Lonnie's interest in music and his extraordinary collection of the recordings of Enrico Caruso are perhaps less well known. He enjoys symphonic music, but his greatest musical love is opera. Thus it is not surprising that over the years he has acquired a large and varied collection of the recordings of operatic stars, of which by far the largest is his Caruso collection. Of Caruso's 240 recordings, Lonnie has 228 original recordings and rerecordings of the remaining 12.

Our University Librarian, Dr. James F. Govan, is out of the country and could not be with us, but he sends his greetings and his observations about the Rare Book Collection and Lonnie's key role in its development. He joins us in the hope that "Dewey and he will continue to grace and enliven the University and Chapel Hill for years to come."



James F. Govan

I deeply regret my inability to be present at the dinner honoring Lonnie London, who so richly deserves this recognition, and I could not resist the invitation to write a contribution to the celebration of his many gifts and contributions. I first met Lonnie, of course, nearly eighteen years ago, when I assumed the position of University Librarian at the University. He very quickly became identified in my thinking as one of the real strengths of the Library staff and the University community. His long years of experience had provided him with information and intuition that went far beyond the specialization of rare books, and he was often helpful to me in terms of explaining the history and tone of Chapel Hill.

He has, of course, a solid grounding in this community and this University. After getting his bachelor's, master's, and doctoral degrees from the University, he first joined the library staff as a research assistant in 1936. He was formally promoted to Curator of Rare Books in 1955. In those years, he became thoroughly familiar with and made many contributions to the growth and quality of all the special collections. His position as Curator, of course, afforded him the opportunity to bring the full array of his skills and learning to bear on that unusual resource.

Always generous with his time and his knowledge, Lonnie frequently provided indispensable guidance and perceptions that I found invaluable. He was always a sane and responsible contributor to administrative discussions, being realistic in his expectations while uncompromising in his aspirations. He always accepted any assignment given to him cheerfully and carried it out promptly and thoroughly. He has always been an active and conscientious member of his church as well as a dedicated member of his profession. One of his more

admirable traits, in my judgement, is that when the time came for him to step down as Curator of the Rare Book Collection, he did so graciously and remained involved only to the degree of being helpful and supportive to his successors.

His knowledge of rare books, the market, and the personalities involved, was nothing short of miraculous. He was known all over the country and was a respected professional in the eyes of peers and dealers alike. He very skillfully shaped a significant collection that subtly combined the original purpose the Hanes family had for it—the history of the book—with the function of being an active research collection on this particular campus. As a consequence, the Library has been a center for Southeastern research in the area of rare books since he took over the Collection, and all of us, as well as countless students and scholars from other institutions, are in his debt. That Collection embodies a level of international sophistication that is equalled nowhere else in the Library, or, for that matter, on the campus, and contributes substantially to this institution's claim to being a true research university. Dr. London labored for years to bring about that result, and in the course of his career, he created the first and foremost collection of rarities in the Southeast.

Anyone who knows him, however, recognizes that his professional accomplishments are only part of the story. His personal qualities have always contributed to those accomplishments while enriching the lives of his family, friends, and co-workers. I unfortunately worked with him only at the very end of his career, but I remember that association of a few years' duration vividly to this day. His indomitable courage, his unwavering concern for others, and his ready humor, typify him to me.

I only hope that Dewey and he will continue to grace and enliven the University and the Chapel Hill community for years to come. I extend to them hearty congratulations on this important recognition and my best wishes for the future.



Henry W. Lewis

For forty years I lived within a few blocks of Dewey and Lawrence London's hospitable house at 217 Hillsborough Street in Chapel Hill—for most of that time within sight of it. I have enjoyed Dewey's wonderful dinners on Christmas Eve, Easter, and on other family occasions. I have seen this remarkable couple with their children, their grandchildren, brothers and sisters, nieces and nephews, cousins—all sorts of relations, not to mention friends. It is a happy place.

On this occasion, when so many of us are gathered, I must say something about the Londons' capacity to make friends. They like people; they listen to what people have to say; they respond with warmth and interest. They pay calls on the people they meet, an almost forgotten grace. They remember the sick and people who are saddened by suffering.

In the quiet of home Lonnie indulges his passion for opera—provided it is not Wagnerian—by listening to selections from a collection he began building many years ago. And he is an omnivorous reader with broad taste. You can't sit with him long without being interrupted by the telephone. All sorts of friends and acquaintances call on the greatest variety of subjects, most seeking information or verification of some elusive fact. Don't be surprised to learn that stock brokers are among the frequent callers, for our friend is a careful investor, a man alert to fractional differences in rates of return.

This evening others will have something to say about Lonnie's professional skills as librarian, his knowledge of books; so I will only comment on his broad knowledge of North Carolina history. His publications include studies of George E. Badger, the representation controversy in colonial North Carolina, Confederate literature and its publishers, the literature of the Episcopal Church in the Confederate states, and a biography of Bishop Joseph Blount Cheshire. Nor should

it be forgotten that he has written twenty-two sketches for William S. Powell's multi-volume *Dictionary of North Carolina Biography*. He has the memory of an elephant, and his capacity for dating all sorts of events, major and minor, is awesome. Your mistakes are gently corrected.

A life-long Episcopalian, Lawrence London has held numerous positions of leadership in the Chapel of the Cross in Chapel Hill, and for many years he chaired the group that saved and restored St. John's Church, Williamsboro, the oldest church structure in the Diocese of North Carolina. For fifty years Lonnie was historiographer of the Diocese. In that office he initiated, directed, shared in writing, and eventually co-edited the authoritative history of the Episcopal Church in this state published in 1987.

The Londons are devoted travelers. I suppose their favorite haunts are England and New England, places to which they have often returned. Once I had the pleasure of their company for a few days in the south of England, where, through Lonnie's efforts, we saw a freshly unearthed Roman pavement near Chichester. Others were forced to view it from above, but somehow Lonnie persuaded the custodian to allow us to examine it at ground level. On these vacation jaunts Lonnie and Dewey collect friends like magnets.

When traveling, as at home, a hearty North Carolina breakfast—none of that “continental” sort—is important to Lonnie's well-being, and he hates to be forced to get an early start.

Hanging above the fireplace in the Londons' living room is a still-life painting by the distinguished artist Frank London, Lonnie's uncle. Centered on the canvas is a book plainly marked “North Carolina History”; around it are boughs from a pine tree; on one side is a sickle; and below this grouping is a postmarked, stamped envelope. The symbolism is fitting, but when I asked Lonnie the significance of that envelope, he told me that it had puzzled him and he had asked the artist what it meant. The reply was, “Not a damned thing; I put it there because I wanted to.”

Lonnie uses that picture on his bookplate. I can think of nothing more suitable for an authentic North Carolinian with roots deep in the Cape Fear country and in Chatham.





George E. London

By “underwhelming” demand and quite unscheduled, I rise to sound a discordant note in this symphony of harmony and sweetness. Our honoree is *not* quite as perfect as he has been described here tonight. For instance, as many times as we have entertained him in our home he refuses to drink my plain bourbon and always insists on my best scotch (probably a reaction from his fraternity days and corn whiskey).

But this is getting too serious, so let’s lighten it up a bit with fond memories such as watching his courtship. I would be walking up the court from the ZN house in the early thirties when flying down South Columbia Street would come a ’29 Ford convertible with rumble seat and laid back top driven by the lovely blonde, Dewey Mitchell. Two toots of her horn and out from the SAE house would come her date, Lonnie London, and away they’d go. I never knew *where*, though I don’t think it was the *library*. (Incidentally, for the benefit of you younger people, the courtship car was the dream boat of our Depression Generation. It was the first Ford made with gears that shifted by hand and not feet. Your BMWs and Mercedes couldn’t hold a candle to it.)

Perhaps with so many claiming kin to tonight’s “celebrity” and climbing aboard his bandwagon, maybe I should clarify my connections. Our grandfathers were devoted brothers and fought together under Lee in Virginia and after Appomattox walked back home to Pittsboro to face the long struggle for survival in the harsh postwar period of Reconstruction. One eventually succeeded as a merchant, manufacturer and banker, and the other as a lawyer, editor, and senator.

When we played as children with the other cousins and brothers at family gatherings, I’m sure that none of us was aware that Lonnie was then or later

to be much smarter than the rest of us.

I guess it was many years later when I would drop in to see him at the Rare Book Collection, where he was the first Curator, that I began to be properly impressed with the prestigious level he had achieved in his chosen field. He even taught me for the first time the meaning of *incunabula*, which I promptly showed off to my less erudite friends, many of whom like me thought it was a Banana Republic.

I'll never forget his proudly showing me the latest addition to the collection—a page from the original Gutenberg Bible. As he ran his finger around the edge of the illuminated page he said, “George, you and I are looking at what many consider one of the most beautiful pages in literature.”

His *intellectual* vision obviously projects his perspective far beyond the extent of a *physical* horizon.

So, for both the *Patriarch* and *Brag Dog* of our family, we have gathered here tonight to share in loving pride the honor and recognition of his remarkable life, and we raise our glass and say, “Three cheers, three cheers and vive le vous to our Lonnie!”





Presentation of the Award

Archie K. Davis

[Read by William S. Powell]

Honored guests, members and friends of the Society, it is indeed a happy circumstance that affords me the privilege this evening of presenting, on your behalf, the Society's annual award to Lawrence Foushee London, whom I have known and revered as a friend for over sixty years. We came to know one another while here at Chapel Hill. He graduated in 1931, and I in 1932.

We first met in the reading room of the Wilson Library, where we saw one another almost daily. Three years my senior, he literally took me under his wing and nurtured my love of North Carolina history. Although our paths separated after graduation, we never lost touch, and when I returned to the University for postgraduate work forty-two years later, Lonnie London, who had long served with great distinction as Curator of the Rare Book Collection, was the first with whom I shared my desire for further study, and from whom I received enthusiastic support.

Our relationship over the years is so very expressive of the character and motivation of this remarkable man, whose life and generosity of spirit have been dedicated to helping others in so many different ways. Where his heart is, there is his love: be it the Wilson Library and the Rare Book Collection, be it the church, be it music, or be it family or friends, it is there, with and among them, that you will always find the scholar, the writer, the authority, the leader, the helping hand and the friendly concern, in the person of none other than our dear friend, Lonnie London. He is always there.

And he has always left his mark, which can best be characterized as the

imprint of a man determined to help others in keeping with his innate capacity for service. Those who have preceded me this evening have outlined in some detail the breadth and depth of his many accomplishments—all expressive of this innate capacity. In attempting to select the word that best describes the driving force behind Lonnie's long life of achievement, I must confess having been torn between the words, "dedication" and "devotion." In Webster's International Dictionary they are virtually interchangeable, but when I think of Lonnie London, the word "devotion" always comes to the fore.

It is his love of learning, love of the church, love of his native heath, and love of his family and friends that set him apart as a great and good man, and one driven by devotion to the world in which he lives. How wonderful it is, on this evening of June 7, 1991, that Dewey, his lovely bride of fifty-six years, their fine children, grandchildren, his brother, and cousins, along with their countless friends in this audience, can join together in paying tribute to our honored guest, Lonnie London.

Lonnie, on behalf of the Society, it is our high privilege to present to you the 1991 North Caroliniana Society Award in recognition of your outstanding contributions to the history, literature, and culture of North Carolina.



Acceptance of the North Caroliniana Society Award

Lawrence F. London

I wish to thank the Society for this great honor—in fact, the greatest honor I have received since Dewey consented to marry me. Through the years I could never have been able to accomplish whatever I did without her constant assistance and encouragement.

This evening has really been overwhelming for me. When I listened to my good friends Lyle, Henry, George, Bill, and H. G., I was left wondering who this fellow was they were talking about. He might be somebody worth knowing.

I appreciate deeply everything that has been said tonight—and I enjoyed it!



LAWRENCE FOUSHEE LONDON

Born Pittsboro, N.C., February 12, 1908; son of Arthur Hill London and Elizabeth Foushee London. Accident at age twelve deprived him of his sight. Attended preparatory school at Virginia Episcopal School in Lynchburg, Va. Received B.A. degree in 1931, M.A. degree in 1933 (thesis topic "Sectionalism in the Colony of North Carolina"), and Ph.D. degree in history 1936 (dissertation topic "The Public Career of George Edmund Badger"), all from University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Joined staff of University of North Carolina Library 1936 as researcher and became Curator of Rare Books 1956, retiring 1975. Historiographer of Episcopal Diocese of North Carolina 1937-1987. Author of books and articles relating to North Carolina history and the Episcopal Church, including *Bishop Joseph Blount Cheshire: His Life and Work* (UNC Press, 1941); *The Episcopal Church in North Carolina, 1701-1959* (editor, with Sarah McCulloh Lemmon; Episcopal Diocese of North Carolina, 1987); "The Representation Controversy in Colonial North Carolina," in *North Carolina Historical Review* 11 (October 1934): 255-270; "George Edmund Badger in the United States Senate, 1846-1849," *NCHR* 15 (January 1938): 1-22; "George Edmund Badger and the Compromise of 1850," in *NCHR* 15 (April 1938): 99-118; "George Edmund Badger, His Last years in the United States Senate, 1851-1855," in *NCHR* 15 (July 1938): 231-250; "George Edmund Badger, Member of the Harrison-Tyler Cabinet, 1841," in *South Atlantic Quarterly* 37 (July 1938): 307-327; "The Literature of the Church in the Confederate States," in *Historical Magazine of the Episcopal Church* 17 (1948): 345-355; the "North Carolina" section of "The Clergy of the Episcopal Church in 1785," in *Historical Magazine of the Protestant Episcopal Church* 20 (September 1951): 243-277; "Confederate Literature and Its Publishers," in *James Sprunt Studies in History and Political Science* 39 (1957): 82-96; and "Homage to William Picard Jacocks," in *Bookmark* 35 (June 1965): 27-29. Contributor of twenty-two sketches to William S. Powell's *Dictionary of North Carolina Biography*. Member Sigma Alpha Epsilon social fraternity, Phi Beta Kappa scholastic fraternity, and many historical and library associations. Recipient of North Caroliniana Society Award 1991 for outstanding contributions to the history and culture of North Carolina. Married Emily Dewey Mitchell of Chapel Hill, August 29, 1936; children, Lawrence Foushee London, Jr., and Alexander Claypoole London. Residence 217 Hillsborough Street, Chapel Hill 27514.



The North Caroliniana Society Award Cup

John L. Sanders

For some time, the Board of Directors of the Society has wanted to procure a tangible symbol that would physically represent the Society's award and publicize the names of its recipients. Up to now, we have given each recipient a certificate representing the award, but there has been no public list of all the recipients. If one wanted to procure such a list, or to know who won the award in a particular year, one had to consult our efficient Secretary, who was pleased to provide the information—assuming that he was not off photographing seals gamboling across Arctic ice floes.

Several months ago, the board charged me with the task of finding an appropriate object to symbolize the award. Through a private dealer in silver in Washington, I was able to obtain on approval a piece that seemed suitable. The President, the Secretary, and a couple of other board members of discerning taste examined it, and all approved its purchase.

The object chosen is a silver two-handled cup and cover. It is a form of trophy that came into fashion in England about the reign of William and Mary and was popular throughout the eighteenth century. It was given to winners of major horse races and achievers of other distinctions. It varied in finish from the very simple to the richly ornamented. While primarily a display piece, the cup could be used as a punch bowl and, filled with an appropriate potation, could be passed from hand to hand around the festive board.

This particular cup was made in London in 1924 by the silversmiths Charles and Richard Comyns for Tiffany & Co. It is Sterling and weighs 65 ounces Troy.

With some difficulty, an engraver has been found in Boston to whom it will shortly be sent to have engraved on its side:

"THE NORTH CAROLINIANA SOCIETY
AWARD

for distinguished contributions to
North Carolina History and Culture"

The cup will be mounted on a wooden base in the form of a flattened, truncated pyramid. On each face of the base will be a large silver plate, on which will be engraved the name of every winner of the award from the beginning and the date of each conferral. These inscriptions can be updated, year by year. The cup and base will stand on a pedestal, under a plastic cover, in the Reading Room of the North Carolina Collection.

Each award recipient, beginning with this year, will also receive a Sterling goblet, inscribed with the name of the award, the name of the recipient, and the year of the award.

Given your historical tastes, you might be interested in the provenance of the cup.

On the exterior, you will see two monograms: "HJC" and "ELC," and on the inside of the foot of the cup is engraved "Harold Jefferson Coolidge and Edith Lawrence Coolidge" and the dates "February 19, 1903-1928."

Clearly, this was a twenty-fifth wedding anniversary present to the Coolidges. And who were the Coolidges?

Harold Jefferson Coolidge could have been invented by Cleveland Amory—a thorough Boston Brahmin. He was born in 1870, grew up in Boston, and was educated at Harvard University (1892) and the Harvard Law School (1896). He practiced law in Boston, specializing in the care of trust property; served as a bank director; was an active alumnus of Harvard; and engaged in various charitable, civic, and religious works, including the presidency of the Board of Trustees of the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum (Mrs. Gardner was his aunt). It might be superfluous to add that he was a Republican and an Episcopalian. He died in 1934.

Harold Jefferson Coolidge was the son of Joseph Randolph Coolidge and Julia Gardner Coolidge,

the grandson of Joseph Coolidge, Jr., and Ellen Wayles Randolph Coolidge, the great-grandson of Thomas Mann Randolph and Martha Jefferson Randolph, and

the great-great-grandson of Thomas Jefferson and Martha Wayles Jefferson of Albemarle County, Virginia.

Thus the North Caroliniana Society Award Cup may be described as "a Jefferson family piece," "to which," as the late Mr. Jefferson said of his own pedigree, "let every man ascribe the faith and merit he chooses."

The North Caroliniana Society, Inc.
North Carolina Collection
Wilson Library, UNC Campus Box 3930
Chapel Hill, North Carolina 27599-3930

Chartered by the Secretary of State on 11 September 1975 as a private nonprofit corporation under provisions of Chapter 55A of the *General Statutes of North Carolina*, the North Caroliniana Society is dedicated to the promotion of increased knowledge and appreciation of North Carolina's heritage. This it accomplishes in a variety of ways: encouragement of scholarly research and writing in and the teaching of state and local history; publication of documentary materials, including the numbered, limited-edition *North Caroliniana Society Imprints* and *North Caroliniana Society Keepsakes*; sponsorship of professional and lay conferences, seminars, lectures, and exhibitions; commemoration of historic events, including sponsorship of markers and plaques; and assistance to the North Carolina Collection and North Carolina Collection Gallery of the University of North Carolina Library and other cultural organizations, such as the Friends of the Library, the Friends of the Archives, the North Carolina Literary and Historical Association, the Historic Preservation Foundation of North Carolina, and the North Carolina Writers Conference.

Incorporated by H. G. Jones, William S. Powell, and Louis M. Connor, Jr., who soon were joined by a distinguished group of North Carolinians, the Society was limited to one hundred members for its first decade. However, it does elect from time to time additional individuals meeting its strict criterion of "adjudged performance" in service to their state's culture—i.e., those who have demonstrated a continuing interest in and support of the historical, literary, and cultural heritage of North Carolina. The Society, a tax-exempt organization under provisions of Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, expects service rather than dues. For its programs, it depends upon the contributions, bequests, and devises of its members and friends. Its IRS number is 56-1119848. Upon request, contributions to the Society may be counted toward membership in the Chancellors' Club. The Society administers the Archie K. Davis Fund, given in 1987 by the Research Triangle Foundation in honor of its retiring board chairman and the Society's longtime president.

A highlight of the Society's year is the presentation of the North Caroliniana Society Award for long and distinguished service in the encouragement, production, enhancement, promotion and preservation of North Caroliniana. Starting with Paul Green, the Society has recognized Tar Heels such as Albert Coates, Sam J. Ervin, Jr., Sam Ragan, Gertrude S. Carraway, John Fries Blair, William and Ida Friday, William S. Powell, Mary and James Semans, David Stick, William M. Cochrane, Emma Neal Morrison, and Burke Davis. The proceedings of the awards banquets, published in the *Imprints* series, furnish rare glimpses into the lives of those recognized.

The Society has its headquarters in the North Carolina Collection, the "Conscience of North Carolina," which seeks to preserve for present and future generations all that has been or is published by North Carolinians regardless of subject and about North Carolina and North Carolinians regardless of author or source. In this mission the Collection's clientele is far broader than the University community; indeed, it is the entire citizenry of North Carolina, as well as those outside the state whose research extends to North Carolina or North Carolinians. Members of the North Caroliniana Society share a very special relationship to this unique Collection that dates back to 1844 and stands unchallenged as the largest and most comprehensive repository in America of published materials about a single state. The North Carolina Collection Gallery, opened in 1988, adds exhibition and interpretive dimensions to the Collection's traditional services. These combined resources fulfill the vision of President David L. Swain (1801–1868), who founded the Collection; Librarian Louis Round Wilson (1876–1979), who nurtured it; and Philanthropist John Sprunt Hill (1869–1961), who generously endowed it. All North Carolinians are enriched by this precious legacy.

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